

Barking triumph caps revival



PAUL BIRDSEYE
... full back change



GWYN WALTERS
... international

BARKING 6, Walton and Hershaw 1. That was the scoreline that shocked amateur football followers last week. And that result could well spell trouble for Wycombe Wanderers when they visit Mayesbrook Park on Saturday in the Rothmans-Isthmian League, Division One.

Barking have been languishing in the lower regions of the league for much of the season but their recent improvement has been marked. Last week's amazing victory over one of the strongest league sides capped several promising performances.

Three-nil up at half time, the six goals were scored by six different players and Walton only replied with a penalty in the very last minute of the match. It was Barking's third £40 bonus from Rothmans this season.

Other creditable results include a recent 2-0 success against Woking while they were one goal up against Hendon, before the championship challengers pulled back to level at 1-1 last week. Barking have also drawn 0-0 at Claremont Road in one of the early season matches.

Wanderers met Barking at Loakes Park in only their third match of the season, recording a 5-2 victory and their first £40 bonus. But Barking showed a good deal of spirit in that game. Keith Searle (2) and Mick Hollifield sent the Blues racing into a 3-0 lead inside 16 minutes, but rather than throwing in the towel, Barking hit back to 3-2 with goals from Snell and Amirikas. It took two late goals

from Tony Horseman to seal the verdict.

There has been little change to the side that lost that day. Goalkeeper Brian Blake has been replaced by Kitson while Pat Foster and Mick Simmonds are now in the reserves. Three players — Roger Crossley, Steve Spinks and Pete Copperthwaite — have all joined Southall.

Barking have been relying on youth this term and their policy seems to be paying off well. Their two centre backs are both teenagers. Chris Daltrey is a mere 16 years old while his partner Dave Waite is a year older.

These two youngsters have done a remarkable job at the back for Barking. The Essex club have some experienced players, like Gwyn Walters, their Welsh international who represented his country against

Ireland last week. Top goalscorer is Alan Kiff with 13, while Oliver has 11.

It seems the new ground at Mayesbrook Park has played a large part in their improvement. When the local council took over Vicarage Field for re-development in September Barking moved to their new site and have already spent in excess of £70,000 on improvements. Further money will be used on resurfacing the pitch.

Barking: P. Kitson, T. Whettell, R. Amirikas, C. Daltrey, D. Waite, G. Walters, S. Oliver, K. Varney, A. Kiff, M. Crissell, C. Moore, R. Winter.

Wanderers may make one change from the side that beat Walthamstow Avenue 3-1 at Loakes Park on Saturday. Paul Birdseye, absent last week at a wedding, is likely to replace Ian Rundle at full back.

Wycombe supporters making the journey by car should travel by the A13 London-Tilbury road. Along the East India Dock Road go over flyover and continue for four miles, passing over a second flyover. Approaching a third flyover turn off and take road under flyover to roundabout. Take second exit and proceed down Lodge Avenue. Mayesbrook Park is situated approximately one and a half miles down this road on the left hand side.

Cancelled

WYCOMBE Wanderers' scheduled friendly against North Shields on Friday, April 19 has been cancelled. Instead, the Blues will meet Banbury United at home the previous evening in the Premier Midweek Floodlight League on Thursday, April 18.